

ARTICLE APPEARS
ON PAGE 49

THE WASHINGTON POST
5 September 1982

AROUND THE NATION

Pentagon Move Canceled Scientific Papers

The Defense Department engineered the cancellation of about 100 papers at a scientific conference in San Diego last month because Soviet scientists attending might have gained militarily valuable insights, federal officials said yesterday.

Ironically, the conference is known colloquially as the "spy" conference after the acronym of its sponsor, the Society of Photo-optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE).

Much of the work of society members deals with lasers, and the Aug. 24-27 conference had Soviet scientists in attendance.

"The Defense Department decided to enforce a rule, on the books for some time but generally not enforced, that every paper written with their support had to be cleared formally," said George A. Keyworth, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

A variety of Defense Department agencies contract for research in industry and universities. Such contracts generally have provisions permitting the department to review results before publication.

The Reagan administration has shown increasing sensitivity to what it sees as a growing problem of Soviet acquisition of American technology and know-how for military purposes, both through spying and from open sources.